

Maryland Department of Human Resources  
Advisory Council for Alternative Response

Teleconference Meeting  
December 10, 2013  
Minutes

**Council Member Attendees:** Dr. Pam Brown, Paul Dilorenzo, Dick Paulman, Claudia Remington, Melissa Rock, Joan Little, Vanita Taylor, Al Zachik, Carol Spigner

**SSA Representatives:** Steve Berry, Shanda Crowder, Rene King, Carnitra White, Audrey McLendon

**Other attendees:** Christa Linton, Maria Tillman, Brian Schleter. Sandra Barnes, Megan Lucy, Neijma Celestine Donner, Leslie Bishop-Joe

**Welcome and Introductions**

In Ted Dallas' absence, Carnitra White welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. White reviewed the agenda.

**Minutes**

The November minutes were approved with no changes.

**Workgroup updates**

**Practice /Community Partners Workgroup**

Phases I and II have implemented Alternative Response. Phase III is scheduled for a final co-chair meeting on December 13, 2013. The Screening Supervisor training is scheduled for the beginning of January. Phase III will implement January 15, 2014.

Phase IV is scheduling co-chair meetings.

A learning collaborative meeting was conducted with staff from Phases I, II and III. The collaborative included a panel discussion with staff representing three Phase I jurisdictions. The panel members answered questions from staff in Phases II and III. The discussion was a positive exchange of the benefits of Alternative Response and the processes that were employed by staff. Candice Ward and Paul DiLorenzo, Casey Family Programs will assist with planning future learning collaborative.

DHR and Casey Family Programs are planning to send selected staff from Phase I jurisdictions to a state that currently uses Alternative Response, for example Ohio. The staff selection process would be a competitive process with the understanding that once staff return, other jurisdictions' staff would go to the trained staff's jurisdiction to shadow them in the field. The process may be repeated for staff in Phases II – V.

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**Evaluation Workgroup**

IAR is currently collecting data. No results are expected until the beginning of 2014.

**Policy Workgroup**

No report for this meeting.

**Communications**

No report for this meeting

**Additional**

**Resources**

SSA will finalize the plan for stakeholders to assist with additional and nontraditional resources across the state. The resource needs will be determined and stakeholders will be asked for assistance; for example, partnering with farmers markets, carpeting companies, etc. to assist with families' needs.

DHR will also schedule a meeting with Al Zachik, DHMH to discuss mental health needs for children.

**Data Reporting**

Carnitra White reported that the StateStat template will be updated to include Alternative Response data. StateStat data is posted to the DHR website.

**Training**

The Child Welfare Academy filmed two staff from Frederick County as part of the Alternative Response training. There are plans to film families involved with Alternative Response as well.

**NEXT MEETING: Teleconference, January 14, 2014, 1:00 PM.**